



Maldon and District

Newsletter



Poppies at Hyde Hall - Liz Samson

November 2022

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR

Our AGM on 17th October happened quickly and before you could say “constitution”, I found myself in the chair. I am following Shirley, who was, very deservedly, presented with a bouquet of flowers.



The AGM was followed by an excellent presentation on “Lewes and Bonfire Night” with slides and videos. The video of marches with burning crosses was explained: it looked like the start of an insurrection.

You may be surprised but the u3a also has its own internal politics. Some weeks ago, the u3a Trust (our sort of “Head Office”) put forward a proposal that the Capitation Fee, which is paid to Head Office in respect of each member, should be increased annually from its current level of £4 pa. It would increase in line with State Pensions and continue to do so indefinitely; meaning that it would grow in line with inflation.

Your Committee decided to respond to this but it was not really practical to consult members. We wished to put forward a constructive alternative, but this proved very difficult. We, like other u3as, did not like the Trust’s proposal and it was rejected. We will let you know what now transpires. The level of the Capitation Fee does affect our finances.

Our next talk will be by Egyptologist Sally Brewer entitled “Who built Tutankhamun’s Tomb.” The Tut exhibitions in London enthralled the public 50 years ago and there were over a million visitors – perhaps you were one. It will be good to know who built the tomb, which is now almost exactly one hundred years after it was discovered.

So do come along and bring any friends, who may be interested in the topic – and of course also interested in joining as a member. Be ready with some good questions.

Christmas is now only seven weeks away and I am sure that our u3a has much to offer to raise the spirits at a difficult time for our country. I look forward to seeing you at our November meeting on the 21st.

Ken Hazell

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

We had a very enjoyable afternoon in October when Charlotte Harding from the Braintree Museum gave an excellent presentation on the history of Warner's big contribution towards the manufacture of the silks and velvets used for Royal Coronations from the beginning of the twentieth century.

Much detail was given about the late Queen's Coronation in 1953, with details of not only the robes worn by the Royal Family but also the elaborate silks woven for Westminster Abbey. It will be interesting to see how this will compare with the Coronation of our new King.

Our final meeting of the year will be **on Monday November 28th** at the Town Hall at 2pm when we have a film entitled "Memories of the Essex Coast". This will be a trip down Memory Lane for those of us who remember when going to the Essex seaside, armed with bucket and spade was the highlight of the summer!!

There will be ***NO MEETING in December.***

Kath and Sylvia

AVIATION GROUP

The next meeting will be on **Friday 25th November** at 11am.

Venue is the Old Pavilion Dawson Field, Main Road, Danbury CM3 4NQ.

This month there will be a brief overview talk on Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome by Trevor Neale, followed by a video on the re-union of the last two flying Avro Lancasters.

Tea and coffee will be available for a nominal charge of £1. There is a charge for the hall but I have some 'float' left over from the previous group so that's taken care of.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Chris Tressider



MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting is on **Monday 5th December** starting at 10:00 am at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, CM9 4SD for a talk on the Regents Canal by Simon Gregor.

This talk will cover the general history of the canal, and an overview of its passage from Paddington Basin as far as Kings Cross (it's too much to fit the whole thing into a single talk, but that section includes plenty of fascinating history both along the canal itself, and in the nearby streets).

Simon is a Blue Badge Guide for London, he is also a World War I and II Battlefield Guide, taking groups around the various battlefields in Europe. Simon currently lives in Mexico/USA so he will be talking to us via a video link.

This will be followed by a discussion on our programme for 2023 (please bring your cheque books as there will be two trips to sign up for) this will be followed with some "Christmas cheer".

If you would like to join the group then please contact:

Malcolm Case

The Big Balti



The next curry event will be held on **Monday 28th November** at the Balti Bhujon restaurant
Mill Road Maldon
6:30 start

To add your name to the list please contact the following.

Graham Evans or Bob Gowers

Note new contact details for Bob

THE SILVER LINE

0800 4 70 80 90 www.thesilverline.org.uk

The Silver Line is the only free confidential helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people, open 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

POETRY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Thursday 1st December** starting at 2:00 pm in a member's house.

The poetry for discussion is all based around Christmas, there are many poets who have written on the subject, to name a few.



Charles Wesley



Henry Vaughan



Walter de la Mare



George Starbuck

Jo Robson

u3a National Newsletter – October

u3a Offers and Services is a new section of the newsletter offering discounts to u3a members and friends.

u3a Click and Save: everyday savings

Through the u3a Click and Save scheme, members can receive a discount on many big brands including Sainsbury's, Costa, Currys and Ticketmaster.

How do you access u3a Click and Save?

You can access the scheme by following these steps:

1. Create an account on [the u3a Click and Save website](#).
2. Click on the link in the confirmation email and then log in.

Offer

Bag of fabric pieces, some quite large.

Contact Veronica Smith if interested.

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 19th December 2022

Wickham Bishops Hall Doors open at 1:30 for 1:45 start

Christmas Light Hearted Quiz and Entertainment

Our **Christmas Meeting and Social** this year will be slightly different because some of it will rely on **YOU**.

We shall be holding a relaxed light-hearted seasonal Quiz – nothing too clever or taxing – and hopefully it will make you smile.

There will be prizes!



As usual there will be festive refreshments and entertainment, so make sure you note the date in your diaries.

Please remember your Membership Card

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2022/2023

Jan 16th	Graham and Mary Brace	Wildlife of Brazil
Feb 20th	Alistair Hodgson	The de Havilland Museum
Mar 20th	Nicholas Alston High Sheriff of Essex	The history of this title and what it means now
Apr 17th	Our 25th Anniversary Celebration	
May 15th	Dr James Taylor	Dazzle: Disguise and Disruption in War and Art
Jun 19th	Fran Sandham	Dr Livingstone I Presume?

If you know of any speakers you can recommend, please contact me.

Veronica Smith, Speaker Secretary

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting is on **Monday 28th November** at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge CM9 4RE, starting at 7:30 pm.

If weather conditions allow then we will be night sky observing.

If we are unable to do this, then we will have a presentation and update on NASA's latest rocket system to the moon – Artemis 1.



Please bring your telescopes/binoculars/monocular with you.

If you would like to join the group then please contact:

Malcolm Case

December	A Few Astronomy Events in December
2	Conjunction of the Moon and Jupiter
8	Full Moon. Full Moon days are perfect for photographing it
8	Conjunction of the Moon and Mars
8	Mars at opposition. At 05:35 UTC, Mars is at its closest approach to Earth
14-15	Geminids Meteor Shower. The Meteor Shower runs from December 4 to 17
15	Comet 81P/Wild at perihelion
21	Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation. When Mercury reaches its greatest elongation at 18:47 UTC, it's located 20.1° east of the Sun
21	December solstice. The December solstice is at 16:01 UTC
22-23	Ursids Meteor Shower. The Meteor Shower runs from December 17 to 26
23	New Moon. The Moon is between the Earth and the Sun, so the bright side of the Moon is facing away from the Earth
24	Conjunction of the Moon and Venus
24	Conjunction of the Moon and Mercury
26	Conjunction of the Moon and Saturn
29	Conjunction of the Moon and Jupiter

ASTRONOMY GROUP

VISIT TO THE THOMAS PLUME LIBRARY October 2022

A group of ten members visited the Thomas Plume Library on Tuesday 18th October (ten is the maximum number of people that the library allows to visit in one session).



We were met by Doctor Helen Kemp who gave us a brief overview about the library, we were then shown the books and leaflets which had been set out for us to look at on two long tables, obviously because of the age of the books and leaflets we were not allowed to touch them, but Dr Kemp, together with colleagues, had prepared a synopsis of everything that was on display.



The books were mainly written in Latin so the synopsis was invaluable. The books and leaflets dated from around the 1530s through to 2004 with numerous authors ranging from Thomas Erastus through to the Plumian Professors of Cambridge University, including Edmond Halley, Isaac Newton and Galileo Galilei to name a few.

One particular book which I personally found interesting was about the construction and history of the Greenwich Observatory.

The visit lasted almost two hours with many questions being asked of Dr Kemp and her assistant. The display and the work put in by the staff of the Library was excellent and very much appreciated by us all.

Thanks go to Mike Childs for organising the visit.

Malcolm Case

BIRD WATCHING GROUP

November visit to Wallasea Island

November 5th looked like it would turn out to be a damp squib the day was cool blustery with intermittent heavy rain showers. Wallasea Island Nature Reserve was not welcoming but the adventurous members of the group set out for the only hide on the site.

Safe inside the hide we waited patiently as the rain battered down Swans moved serenely along one of the channels whilst a Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) hunted for small fish and insects.

One of our group had to leave early and his departing words were to the effect that we would now see some birds.

Within a few minutes the sun came out and the reserve's resident Marsh Harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*) began gliding over the reed beds which caused flocks of Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) and Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) to rise up and circle right in front of the hide.

Then, perched on a small footbridge, was a Falcon with slate grey upper parts, underparts whitish with narrow barring. This was quickly identified as a Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*). The actions of the Marsh Harrier in spooking the Lapwings prompted the Peregrine into action and the last we saw of her was as she swooped down on its prey.

The walk back to the carpark was accompanied by the songs of Skylarks, with the beautifully marked Reed Buntings out in force. What a difference the sun made.

The next meeting will be on **Sunday 4th December** at Hanningfield Reservoir Reserve. Meet in the carpark at 10.00am.

Peter Gaywood

READING GROUP

Sadly, despite two mentions in these pages and an announcement at the October meeting, attempts to restart the Reading Group, which foundered in the pandemic period, failed to attract a viable number of people. I will keep the names of people who did come forward and maybe we can have another attempt in the future. Let me know if you want your name added to the list.

Patrick Forsyth

WRITING FOR FUN GROUP

Meantime, the “**Writing for Fun**” group continues to meet, with members reading and discussing their writing. The focus here is wide, sometimes non-fiction, everything from serious essays to humour and rants, more often short stories.

My new novel, *Where There's a Will*, which has just been published, started life as a short story written to match one of the group's briefs.

Also, just recently I have signed a contract allowing an earlier book, *Once a Thief*, to have a screenplay written based on it. While that's still a million miles from seeing it on television, it's a small step... and you never know!

If any member wants a copy (at a discounted price of £5.00 per copy) of either book I can bring copies to the November meeting.

Patrick Forsyth



“Sound” Person “Still” Required

The basic sound kit is now easily carried in a briefcase and quickly plugged in at the side of the stage behind the curtain. Setting up the projector is unchanged and is also quite simple.

Please see any member of the Committee and we can have an informal chat/demo at the next meeting. Support and training will be provided, as well as written instructions.

Alec Fraser

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The photography group continues to meet monthly via Zoom.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 16th November at 7:30pm.**

The subject for November is "Furniture".

Visit the photography page on our website to see the growing and varied selection of pictures.

www.maldonu3a.co.uk/photography/photography.php

New members are most welcome, pictures can be of any standard that you have taken yourself.

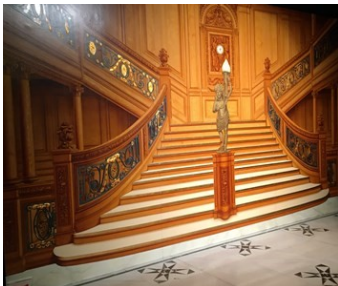
Examples of recent 'Stairs & Stairways' pictures



David Whiteing



Andy Simmonds



Carol Bates

Tony Groves webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks for all your contributions to this newsletter, please keep them coming. Look at our website for any updates in-between newsletters. www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Liz Samson

FILM GROUP

There was certainly no comparison between the two films under review, they were so entirely different.

"Rosie" couldn't be considered a jolly film, portraying as it did the unhappy situation a family found itself in. The horror of homelessness, whatever the reason, is something unimaginable for most of us and although the film was quite slow in places, it did give an insight to what it must be like. Superb acting by all, very moving: **Score: 6**

"The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" on the other hand was much more enjoyable to watch and produced the first 10/10 scores! Despite being set following the German occupation with flashbacks to the time, it was very watchable and entertaining. Slightly predictable, the two main characters were so obviously going to get together at the end, but we all like a happy ending. An interesting period of history for the Channel Islands and not one any of knew too much about, just that it couldn't have been great for the islanders. Also, through the relationship of one of the characters and a German soldier, it showed that, as in *Rosie* and the film about the German POW turned footballer, people find themselves in situations not always of their own making. **Score: 9**

Our next selections are:

"Loving" a 2016 American biographical romantic drama which tells the story of Richard and Mildred Loving, the plaintiffs in the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Loving v Virginia*, which invalidated state laws prohibiting interracial marriage. The film takes inspiration from *"The Loving Story"* a 2011 documentary by Nancy Buirski.



on BBC iPlayer for 19 days (16th November)

"The Young Offenders" is a 2016 Irish comedy film.



Best friends Conor and Jock are two teenagers from Cork who dress the same, act the same, and even have the same weak moustaches. When a drug trafficking boat capsizes off the southwest coast of County Cork, leading to the seizure of 61 bales of cocaine, each worth 7 million Euros, word gets out that there is one missing!

On BBC iPlayer for over a year - the film and not the series of the same name.

Next meeting is on **Wednesday, 30th November**, at 7.30 as usual.

Shirley Macro

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Peter Deans gave us a very interesting, illustrated talk about his father, Austen Deans OBE, a New Zealander with British ancestry, who was distantly related to Jane Austen. Austen Deans was appointed an Assistant War Artist in WWII for the New Zealand Army, although he sadly became a PoW. During the later part of his life, he was commissioned by the New Zealand government to travel to the Antarctic to paint the scenery, and Peter showed us several examples of his work, mainly in watercolours. Austen was also a keen mountaineer, right up to the end of his life, and he knew Sir Edmund Hillary.

Shirley followed with a deeply researched presentation on Alfred Munnings. We shall arrange another trip to Castle House, Dedham, in the New Year.

At the next meeting, on **7th December**, we shall continue "Lives of the Artists".

Contact Judith Johnston

STROLLERS

Walk Sunday 16th October

This was our fourth attempt at this walk, on three previous occasions this year we had to cancel due to weather conditions (heavy rain/strong winds/intense heat!) so it was with a sigh of relief that nine of us set off on a sunny morning to walk along the creeks and inlets of the River Crouch. In earlier times smugglers were said to have used these to hide their contraband.



Nowadays the river provides the setting for an easy and relaxing walk of about 3.75 miles by the water, in South Woodham Ferrers.

As usual, as Strollers, we did not rush, but took time to admire the view, watch the birds, decide whether the tide was coming in, or going out, (using the moored boats as our guide), and generally chat about life.



As we neared the end of our walk, some took the opportunity to divert and view the llamas in a field nearby.

This was followed by a substantial, tasty Sunday roast at Shaw Farm.

We were unanimous in agreeing that it was a delightful way to spend a Sunday morning.

Gill Stone

NEWS FROM THE EAST



Look at the November edition, See the link on our website.



<http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk/NewsFromTheEast2022-11.pdf>

Wickham Bishops Jazz Club

Live Traditional Jazz at its best

Each month in Wickham Bishops Village Hall, CM8 3JZ.

Next event: **Saturday 10th December 2022** – 6.30 for 7.30 start.

Allen Beechey leads New Orleans Allstars

Future events

- 21 Jan Pete Rudeforth's Band
- 18 Feb Paula Jackman's Jazz Masters
- 18 March Alan Gresty & Friends with guest from USA

Further dates for your diary:

- 22 April tba
- 20 May tba
- 17 June tba

To reserve seats: please contact

Pete Hughes

MAH-JONG

Friday 9th December is the last meeting for the year.

We will be restarting on Friday 3rd February 2pm–4pm.

We have places available for new members who would like to join our group, please contact:

Mags Pell

WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Jane Meesters	Vivien Smith
Henk Meesters	Kenneth Smith
Trevor Neale	Sandra Sweeting
Lynn Prickler	

You in
your 3rd
age

STROLLERS TOO

OCTOBER WALK

On a sunny, unseasonably warm October morning ten members of the group met at The Anchor at Runsell Green for their monthly walk. Our October stroll was in the Woodham Mortimer area.



We set off (with some of the group modelling the latest trend in Hi Vis jackets) in a southerly direction and crossed the busy A414. Soon we found ourselves in the peaceful surroundings of Hyde Lane and then into Cherry Garden Lane. This rural lane was strewn with acorns, which crunched under our feet as we walked towards our first cross-field path. Thankfully, it was not muddy, and we came off the path and onto Mill Lane.

At this junction we turned left and walked alongside the B1418 for a short distance to Tyndales Farm, where we turned left and followed our second cross-field path to the A414.

Having safely crossed this road (with thanks to a kind lorry driver stopping the traffic — must have been due to the Hi Vis jackets — surely our age had nothing to do with it!!!) we walked along a narrow pavement to the footpath just past the Zara Restaurant.

The footpath led us by the vast gravel pits of this area and into Thrift Wood, a mixed woodland of sweet chestnut, oak, and hornbeam. The path sloped gently downhill until you reach a small stream and then climbs gently until it joins onto the Old London Road, where we stopped for refreshments and a photo opportunity, before crossing



The Street by the entrance to the Warren Golf Course.

Following the way marked path by the edge of the golf course we had time to view the golfers to our right and the open farmland to our left.



After approximately 1km we turned left into another ancient woodland area and followed the yellow markers to open fields again, but this time neatly fenced to keep the horses safe.

We now strolled towards Brocks Farm, where we took the farm road leading to Twitty Fee and turned left.

As this road merged into Runsell Lane we turned left again returning to The Anchor for lunch and drinks.

Great walk, great company.

Christine Speed

PADEL TENNIS

Eighteen members showed an interest in playing Padel Tennis and we arranged a "Taster" session on 2nd November, Wednesday being the most popular afternoon. Thirteen members came, which is very encouraging, and we used the three indoor courts.



The rules were explained to us and then we played for over an hour. Everyone seemed to find it good fun.

The feedback from those who came was generally favourable.

We have booked courts for **Wednesday 9th November** from 14.30-16.00 at a cost of £3 per head.

We need to become familiar with the rules and know the names of the different shots. For those of us who thought Chiquita was an ABBA number, it is in fact a soft shot at the opponents feet.

If anyone else would like to give Padel Tennis a try, then do let me know.

Ken Hazell

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Ken Hazell
Vice Chairman	Theresa Byles
Secretary	Carol Bates
Treasurer	Geoff Cory
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case
Newsletter Editor	Liz Samson
Speaker Secretary	Veronica Smith
Groups Co-ordinator	Malcolm Case
Committee	Alec Fraser Tony Groves Andrew Simmonds
Webmaster	Tony Groves
Social Group	Michael Childs

Contact the u3a Office

u3a

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u3a learn,
laugh,
live

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Deadline for next newsletter: 6th December 2022

CO-ORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Judith Johnston Andy Simmonds	London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Sheila Childs
Aviation	Chris Tressider	Meet & Eat	Joan Cummins
Astronomy	Malcolm Case	Mah-Jong	Mags Pell
Balti Night	Bob Gowers	Maritime	Malcolm Case
Bird Watching	Graham Evans Peter Gaywood Michael Bagshaw	Music Appreciation	tba
Bridge	Sheila Epps	Padel Tennis	Ken Hazell
Canasta	Iris Slaney	Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash Geoff Macro
Cribbage	Pat Clements	Photography	Tony Groves
Croquet	Jean Healey Geoff Macro Shirley Macro	Poetry	Jo Robson
Discussion	Liz Jones	Reading	tba
Film Club	Shirley Macro	Rummikub	Beryl McDonell
French Conversation	Ann Lester	Scottish Country Dancing	Diana Rogers
Garden	Theresa Byles Veronica Smith	Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Geology	Sylvia Cousins	Strollers/Strollers Too	Malcolm Case
German	Howard Broadbridge	Tenpin Bowling	David Arnold
Handicraft	Marian Manning Brenda Heal	Tree Identification	Veronica Smith
History—Georgians	Beryl McDonell	Wild Flowers	Veronica Smith
Just Jazz	Jim Light David Coombes	Wine Circle No. 2	Graham Boswell
Local History	Sylvia Cousins Kathleen Goff	Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd
		Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
		Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Comment on ***“Third Age Matters”***
via ***Patrick Forsyth***

third age ^{u3a}
matters

Schedule of Events – December 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
			1 Tenpin Bowling Poetry Rummikub Petanque	2 Canasta	3	4 Bird Watching
5 Maritime	6 German	7 Tenpin Bowling Art Appreciation	8 Tenpin Bowling French History-Georgians Scottish Dancing Petanque	9 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	10	11
12 Discussion Handicrafts	13	14 Tenpin Bowling Christmas Lunch Meet and Eat Bridge	15 Tenpin Bowling Petanque	16 Canasta	17	18
19 Monthly Meeting Just Jazz	20 German	21 Tenpin Bowling Photography	22 Tenpin Bowling French Music App Wine Group 3 Scottish Dancing Petanque	23 Sing for Pleasure	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
26 Boxing Day	27 Bank Holiday	28 Tenpin Bowling Bridge Film Group Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun	29 Tenpin Bowling Petanque	30 Canasta Cribbage	31	

Schedule correct at time of publication – please confirm dates with co-ordinators.